

Good Form

The Well Bred Voice.

One of the elementary laws of good manners prescribes that we shall practice self control, says Florence Howe Hall. Cultivated society goes a step further and demands of us personal refinement. Americans understand this very well so far as dress and outward appearance go. There is perhaps no other nation that pays so much attention to dress as we do. Our countrywomen are admired in Europe for their well made clothes, as well as for their own good looks.

But when they open their lips to speak, alas, all is changed! The harsh nasal tones jar most unpleasantly on the ear. The truth is we do not pay proper attention to the way in which we speak. We do aim at distinctness of utterance, and this we usually achieve. Speech should above all be intelligible, and Americans endeavor always to be understood. This is an excellent thing so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. Why should we be more slovenly in speech than we are in dress?

The woman who has her hands massaged, her hair and face massaged, but who utterly neglects the cultivation of her voice, has not a proper appreciation of values, as the artists say. She should take lessons in singing or in voice culture, and she should have for a text in her boudoir the lines: Her voice was ever soft, Gentle and low, an excellent thing in woman.

When we hear Englishmen or Frenchmen talk it is evident that they have a respect and admiration for their own language. They try to pronounce it so that it will sound well. They seem to understand instinctively that beauty of speech is as great a pleasure to the ear as a beautiful object is to the eye.

If the American woman is wise she does not adopt the British peculiarities of intonation and accent. Nor does she endeavor to make her vocabulary agree with that of the English. She understands that our common language has developed along different lines in the two countries. "Apothecary" and "lawyer" are old Shakespearean words quite as good if not better than the modern British "chemist" and "barrister."

The endeavor to make oneself heard above the din of traffic and conversation is in part responsible for our natural harshness of utterance. At an afternoon tea, where the voices of the women soar higher and higher till they almost reach the screaming point in the vain effort to make themselves heard, the result is disastrous. The habit of calling up and down stairs is also very bad for the voice.

Entertaining Guests.

There are some strict rules indorsed by those who know what is "good form" and others who do not concerning the entertaining of a guest.

A hostess should not accept any invitation that does not include her guest, and she may with propriety (if cards of invitation are received not including a guest) let the prospective hostess know that an invitation is expected. This can be done by telephone or note, simply stating that "I have a young lady (or a man) friend visiting me and should like a card of invitation for her (or him) to your dinner (or ball or whatever) for such and such a date."

If there are callers who are not aware of the presence of a guest a hostess may say she has a friend visiting; then the caller asks to meet whoever it may be. An excellent plan and one generally adopted by those who entertain a great deal and are consequently invited out often is to give an afternoon "high tea," when simple refreshments are best form and everybody in the line of acquaintances invited to meet "Miss Dash."

In the case of a man guest the men of the family see that he has a chance of meeting other men. There may be an evening arranged as well as "bachelor" affairs, where he can be delightfully entertained.

It is good form to just inform a hostess when invitations are received to a dinner, a card party or an affair when special arrangements are to be necessary that one will bring a visiting guest. This is all that is needed.

If one has a reception or affair of any sort the hostess should see that her guest of honor, the one that is visiting her, meets every one present if possible. If a dance the guest should have the men brought to her to fill her dance card and the host sees that she is cared for in every way.

Also a hostess should defer to the wishes and plans of a guest. There may be friends the latter wishes to see that her entertainer is not acquainted with.

On Shaking Hands.

The woman who offers her hand upon accepting an introduction conveys thereby a sign of cordial welcome of the acquaintance, but in formally fashionable society none but the hostesses pursue this course. The inclination of the head, a smile and a murmur of the name constitute a full recognition of an introduction in the eyes of many who regard their bearing as the expression of the best form. In a rather crowded drawing room this mode is to be commended, but at other times a woman, whose prerogative it is to take the initiative on this point, will not greatly err in almost invariably offering her hand.

PROGRESSIVENESS IN THE VILLAGE OF ELMORE.

Ohio Town of 1,000 Population Making Giant Strides.

The village of Elmore, O., has a population of only about a thousand, but has shown itself to be more progressive and better supplied with public improvements than many cities of much larger size, says a writer in the American City. About two miles of the streets are paved, and a sewer system totals more than five miles in length, and more than one-third of the residences are connected with it.

The town also has a municipal electric light plant and a semimunicipal water system. Some years ago an effort



ELMORE'S NEW WATER PUMP.

was made to bond the city to construct waterworks, but this was voted down by the citizens, and following this the council granted a franchise to the National company of South Bend, Ind., to construct a waterworks plant and lease it to the village. An injunction was sought to restrain the council from operating the plant under a lease, but its right to do so was sustained by the supreme court, and the plant is now being leased from the constructing company and operated by the village.

More recently the voters almost unanimously consented to bonding the village for an electric light plant, and this plant has now been completed. Current is not generated by the village, but is purchased from the Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside railway and distributed by it.

The village is unusually small to be provided with all these improvements, but the illustration shows that the pumping plant and building, water tank, etc., are of creditable neatness, design and substantial construction.

BILLBOARDS ARE DOOMED.

There should be general rejoicing over the sweeping decision of the supreme court of Missouri to the effect that cities may not only regulate the size and conditions of billboards, but may even legislate them out of existence altogether. This form of advertising, says the court specifically, "may not only be regulated and controlled, but may be entirely suppressed for the public good under the police power of the state."

Obviously the chief importance of this decision is that it brings the subject of billboards well within the police power of the state. Incidentally it establishes the constitutionality of the regulatory ordinance which St. Louis passed some six years ago. Since the court has indicated so clearly its willingness to consider total abolition of billboards it is probable that we shall hear further from Missouri on that matter. Three or four more decisions of that sort will have the billboards on the run.

Another matter of interest in this connection is the signing of the Orinrod bill by Governor Dix of New York. This authorizes any one to remove or destroy advertisements on public highways. Any one who places an advertisement "on any stone, tree, fence, stump, pole, mileboard, milestone, danger sign, danger signal, guide sign, guidepost, billboard, building or other structure within the limits of a public highway is guilty of a misdemeanor."

In Massachusetts, where a similar law is in force, the motorists have taken a lively interest in clearing the highways of the illegal signs. Of course the law does not touch a billboard which is placed ten feet back on private property. The Missouri method is the only way by which that one can be reached.—Chicago Evening Post.

Municipal Employment Bureau.

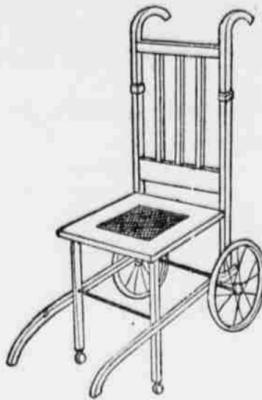
A municipal employment bureau has been established in Schenectady, N. Y., with offices in the city hall annex, under charge of Mrs. Charles K. Kreusi, wife of the commissioner of charities. Mrs. Kreusi has volunteered her services to the city, and the whole establishment will be conducted without any cost excepting a telephone. Mrs. Kreusi has secured positions for a number of worthy persons.

Adopts Commission Government.

After a two years' campaign for a commission form of government in Olathe, Kan., the fight has finally been won, and the commission form will be adopted.

HINTS FOR THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE

Chair For Moving Invalids Up and Down Stairs.



Most invalids' chairs are of a cumbersome type, and when the occupant is to be transported up and down stairs he and the chair must be carried separately. A New York man has designed a chair which is not only much lighter than the average, but has appliances to assist in moving it up and down stairs. The front legs of this chair are equipped with casters, and the short back legs are mounted on wheels. The back rises into two curved handles, and a pair of supplemental handles are fastened in a vertical position, but when the invalid is to be taken from one floor to another they are let down in a horizontal position and held firmly there by catches on the front legs of the chair. This provides supporting means at both back and front and greatly facilitates the transportation of the chair.

Canneton of Beef.

Two pounds lean beef, cut from the round; one-half teaspoonful grated lemon rind, one-quarter teaspoonful ground nutmeg, one teaspoonful salt, one-quarter teaspoonful pepper, one egg, one-half teaspoonful onion juice, two tablespoonfuls melted butter, one tablespoonful finely chopped parsley. Grind the beef and mix well with the other ingredients. Shape in a roll about six inches in length, place on a rack in dripping pan, sear and bake in a slow oven thirty minutes. Baste every five minutes, first with water and later with dripping. Serve with brown mushroom sauce.

Children's Rusks.

Make a soft sponge of one pint of warm milk, half yeast cake dissolved in lukewarm water and sifted flour. Let it rise overnight. In the morning add one-half cupful of melted butter, one cupful of sugar, one egg and a little salt. Flavor with cinnamon, sift in flour enough to make a firm dough, mold into rolls, place in pans, let rise again and bake in a quick oven. These are improved by the addition of a few currants or raisins. When done dampen the tops slightly and sift on some powdered sugar.

Kitchen Notes.

If new cake tins are put on top of the stove until they have a bluish color, but not until they become burned, cake will not stick to them during the baking, as it usually does to new tins.

If you would securely seal an envelope use a little white of egg. An envelope fastened thus cannot be opened without tearing, even if it is steamed.

In washing china take care that soda water is never used with a pattern on which gilt appears.

Orange Pudding.

Put one quart of milk in a double boiler and place over the fire. When hot stir in four tablespoonfuls of cornstarch dissolved in water, the well beaten yolks of two eggs and one and a half cupfuls of sugar. Pour the custard over six sliced oranges, cut and sugared two hours before; cover with well beaten whites of two eggs, place in an oven and brown slightly. Serve chilled with a plain cake or orange cup cakes.

Omelet Savory.

Beat and strain four eggs. Add to them a teaspoonful of chopped parsley and a sprinkling of pepper and salt. Beat up again. Put two ounces of butter in a small round frying pan. Let it melt; then pour in the eggs and season and stir the mixture over a moderate fire until the omelet is set. Turn it into a hot dish, fold it in the center and serve immediately.

Dumplings For Soup.

Sift two cupfuls of flour, four even teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a little salt together. Mix with sweet milk about three-quarters of a cupful or a little less. Dip by spoonfuls into the hot soup, wetting the spoon in the soup each time before taking up the dough. Steam ten minutes without taking off the cover.

Treatment For Burns.

Baking soda gives instant relief to a burn or scald. Applied either wet or dry to the burned part immediately, the sense of relief is magical. It seems to withdraw the heat and with it the pain.

First Village Clubwoman—What sort of a person is this new Mrs. Hart? Second Village Clubwoman—Well, the ladies can't just make out whether she's a nobody flying high or a somebody lying low.—Lippincott's.

In the good old winter time, In the good old winter time, Strolling o'er the icy walks, Haven't got a dime. You hold my hand, and I hold yours, And that's a very good sign That we are short of mittens in The good old winter time. —Spokane Spokesman-Review.

Lean One—You look very prosperous since you got your new job. Fat Chauffeur—Yes; I run over at least three chickens a day.—Birmingham News.

[Many will hope it is the last.] Mary had a little lamb, Growing thin and thinner. She wrapped it in a paper bag And cooked that lamb for dinner. —Judge.

"Why did you leave that swell boarding house?" "Because the swellness was at the expense of the food supply." "What do you mean?" "Four kinds of forks and two kinds of vegetables."—Washington Herald.

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